Drought relief assistance in Kerala

3745. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the reasons for not extending drought relief assistance to Kerala though the State has been declared as drought affected;

(b) the existing norms adopted by Government to grant financial assistance under drought relief scheme;

(c) whether Kerala Government has sought financial assistance and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government are considering granting a special assistance to Kerala to undertake relief activities in drought-hit districts including agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) There is ready availability of funds with the State Governments under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for undertaking necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. Additional assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) is provided for natural calamities of severe nature, in accordance with the items and norms of expenditure for assistance from CRF/NCCF, when the availability of funds in the CRF is not sufficient to tackle the situation. For the current drought, no assistance from NCCF could be provided to Kerala in view of adequate balance available in the CRF of the State. 0.52 lakh MTs of foodgrains have, however, been released to the State for relief employment, free of cost, under the Special component of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) Scheme.

Popularising hybrid rice

3746. SHRI MOTILAL VORA :
SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering seriously for increasing the food production;

(b) if so, whether Hybrid rice is supposed to be a devise for increasing the production;

(c) if not, what are the proposed new varieties;

(d) whether the Ministry considers it necessary to popularize the Hybrid rice; and

(e) if so, whether Government have constituted a committee to study the above subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

Compensation for crop damage in A.P.

3747. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO :
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the amount sanctioned and released by Government to the farmers as compensation whose fields and crops were damaged due to deployment of oil/gas survey/exploration staff in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have received a number of complaints regarding disbursement of compensation amongst farmers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by Government to ensure timely payment to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Monitoring of prices of imported formulations

3748. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NPPA had been fixing the prices of all imported formulations;

(b) what is the profit being allowed on such imported formulations; and

(c) how does NPPA monitor the price of imported formulations being sold at exorbitant price in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRA PAL SINGH) : (a) to (c) Prices of Scheduled imported formulations are fixed as per para 7 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA). Para 7 provides that the landed cost shall form the basis for fixing its price alongwith such margin to cover selling and distribution expenses including interest and importer's profit which shall not exceed fifty per cent of the landed cost. Importers of non-Scheduled formulations can fix their price on their own as per cost of import and prevailing market competition etc. NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-Scheduled formulations (including imported formulations) on the basis of information available to it from various sources.